

AMENDMENT

CLAIMS

Please amend claims 22, 23, 25, 29, 31, 33-35, and 37-44 as follows:

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22. (Amended.) An aqueous glittering ink composition comprising a metal coated inorganic pigment, a water-soluble resin, a water-soluble organic solvent and water, wherein said metal coated inorganic pigment is an inorganic pigment coated with a metal and/or metal oxide and has a reflecting surface or layer of metal.

23. (Amended.) An aqueous glittering ink composition comprising a metal coated inorganic pigment, a water-soluble resin, a water-soluble organic solvent, water and a colorant, wherein said metal coated inorganic pigment is an inorganic pigment coated with a metal and /or metal oxide and has a reflecting surface or layer of metal.

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25. (Amended.) An aqueous glittering ink composition as set forth in claim 22, wherein the metal coated inorganic pigment has a median diameter of about 5 - 100 μm .

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29. (Amended.) A writing tool having an ink container in which an aqueous glittering ink composition is packed, wherein said aqueous ink composition comprises an inorganic pigment coated with a metal and/or metal oxide and has a reflective surface or layer of metal and having a median diameter of about 5 - 100 μm , a water-soluble resin, a water soluble organic solvent and water.

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31. (Amended.) A writing tool as set forth in claim 29, wherein the viscosity of ink measured by an ELD viscometer 3° R14 cone; rotation speed: 0.5 rpm; 20°C is about 1000 to 10000 mPa.s.

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33. (Amended.) A writing tool having an ink container that is made of a hollow tube equipped with a ball-point pen tip at one end, wherein said ink container has an aqueous glittering ink composition packed therein, said aqueous glittering ink composition comprising an inorganic pigment coated with a metal and/or metal oxide and has a reflecting surface or layer of metal and having a median diameter of about 5 - 100 μm and contained in about 1.0 - 40% by weight, a water-soluble resin contained in about 0.01 - 40% by weight and a water-soluble organic solvent contained in about 1.00 - 40% by weight relative to the total amount of the ink composition and water.

34. (Amended.) A writing tool as set forth in claim 33, wherein said water-soluble resin is a water-soluble thickening resin and the viscosity of the aqueous glittering ink measured by an ELD viscometer 3° R14 cone; rotation speed: 0.5 rpm; 20°C is about 1000 to 10000 mPa•s.

35. (Amended.) A writing tool as set forth in claim 34, wherein said water-soluble thickening resin is a microbial polysaccharide or a derivative thereof, selected from the group consisting of pullulan, xanthan gum, welan gum, rhamsan gum, succinoglucan or dextran.

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37. (Amended.) A writing tool as set forth in claim 33, wherein said inorganic pigment coated with metal oxide is aluminum metal coated with metal oxide and has a reflecting surface or layer of aluminum metal.

38. (Amended.) A method for using an aqueous glittering ink composition for a writing tool, the method comprising:

providing an aqueous glittering ink composition which comprises an inorganic pigment coated with a metal having a median diameter of about 5 - 100 μm , a water-soluble resin, a water-soluble organic solvent and water.

39. (Amended.) A method of claim 38, wherein the viscosity of said aqueous glittering ink measured by an ELD viscometer 3° R14 cone; rotation speed: 0.5 rpm; 20°C is about 1000 to 10000 mPa•s.

40. (Amended.) A method for using an aqueous glittering ink composition for a writing tool, the method comprising:

providing an aqueous glittering ink composition which comprises an inorganic pigment coated with a metal and/or metal oxide and has a reflecting surface or layer of metal and a median diameter of about 5 - 100 μm , a water-soluble resin, a water-soluble organic solvent and water,

packing said aqueous glittering ink composition into an ink container made of a hollow tube, and equipping a ball-point pen tip with said ink container.

41. (Amended.) A method of claim 40, wherein the viscosity of the aqueous glittering ink composition measured by an ELD viscometer 3° R14 cone; rotation speed: 0.5 rpm; 20°C is about 1000 to 10000 mPa•s.

42. (Amended.) A method for using an aqueous glittering ink composition for a writing tool, the method comprising:

providing an aqueous glittering ink composition which comprises an inorganic pigment coated with a metal and/or metal oxide and has a reflecting surface or layer of metal and having a median diameter of about 5 -100 μm and contained in about 1.0 - 40% by weight,

a water-soluble resin contained in about 0.01 - 40% by weight and
a water-soluble organic solvent contained in about 1.00 - 40% by weight relative to the
total amount of the ink composition.

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43. (Amended.) A method of claim 42, wherein the viscosity of the aqueous
glittering ink composition measured by an ELD viscometer 3° R14 cone; rotation speed:
0.5 rpm; 20°C is about 1000 to 10000 mPa•s.

44. (Amended.) A method for using an aqueous glittering ink composition for
a writing tool, the method comprising:
providing an aqueous glittering ink composition which comprises
an inorganic pigment coated with a metal and/or metal oxide and has a reflecting surface
or layer of metal and having a median diameter of about 5 - 100 µm and contained in
about 1.0 - 40% by weight,
a water-soluble resin contained in about 0.01 - 40% by weight and
a water-soluble organic solvent contained in about 1.0 - 40% by weight relative to the
total amount of the ink composition;
packing said aqueous glittering ink composition into an ink container made of a hollow
tube, and equipping a ball point pen tip with said ink container.

REMARKS

In the Office Action dated April 22, 2002, the Examiner

1. Provisionally rejected claims 22-28 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as claiming the same
invention as that of claims 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12 and 14 of co-pending U.S. Patent Application Serial
No. 09/523,619;